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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 16 December 1993, at noon

President: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 12.40 p.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The PRESIDENT declared the session open.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (DP/1993/L.12)

2. The agenda was adopted.

OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES (DP/1993/L.13)

3. The PRESIDENT drew attention to draft decision DP/1993/L.13, sponsored by the United Kingdom.

4. Mr. JI Chaozhu (Under-Secretary-General for Development Support and Management Services), speaking on behalf of the Management Board of the Office for Project Services, expressed appreciation to the Governing Council for the guidance which it had provided to the Board over the past few months, and the hope that such guidance would continue to be provided by the Council's successor body. In the Board's view, all the modalities were in place for the smooth transfer of the Office to the Department for Development Support and Management Services on 1 January 1994.

5. He read out the following message from the Secretary-General:

> "Any recommendation on the part of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) or the Governing Council for a delay in such a transfer should result from a review of the additional information provided to them by the Board, and should include a clear indication of the specific issues which, in the view of these bodies, have not as yet been satisfactorily resolved. A decision for postponement without any such indications would only prolong uncertainties, postpone the achievement of the economies of scale which are to result from the merger, as well as the strengthening of the coordinating role of the United Nations Development Programme being sought through the proposed merger, and would not provide any basis to enable the Secretary-General to introduce additional measures which would meet the requirements of ACABQ and the Governing Council. Any such decision would risk penalizing recipient countries, without making it possible for the Secretary-General to address whatever concerns members of the Governing Council may have."

6. Mr. RYSINSKI (Poland), Vice-President, reporting on the outcome of informal consultations, introduced a revised version of draft decision DP/1993/L.13, circulated in an informal document, on which agreement had been reached prior to the start of the current meeting. Paragraph 5 of the revised draft should be amended to read: "Requests the President of the Governing Council to inform, as appropriate, the President of the General Assembly of the contents of this decision as soon as possible".

7. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that the following countries had become sponsors of the draft decision: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America.

8. Mr. MONGBE (Benin), referring to the oral amendment just put forward by the representative of Poland, said that he believed that "as appropriate" should be translated into French as "comme il convient", and not "le cas échéant", which was what the interpreter had said. If that wording was not adopted, his delegation would be unable to support the draft decision.

9. Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) suggested that the wording proposed by the representative of Benin should be adopted.

10. Draft decision DP/1993/L.13, as revised and orally amended, was adopted.

11. Mr. NIE Hualiang (China), explaining his delegation's position on the draft decision just adopted, said that, while China had joined the consensus, that did not imply that its views had changed. His Government continued to believe that the postponement for one year of the transfer of the Office would lead to further uncertainty regarding the support provided to the Office and to the Department for Development Support and Management Services, and would therefore affect the efficiency of those two departments, as well as, ultimately, the interests of recipient countries.

12. Mr. MOHAMED (Sudan) requested the secretariat of the Council to prepare an informal statement of the difficulties which might be entailed by the restructuring.

13. Mr. ORTIZ GANDARILLAS (Bolivia) expressed the hope that the transfer of the Office would not affect its ability to continue its work in an efficient manner.

14. The PRESIDENT drew attention to a letter from the Management Board, requesting the Council to specify those issues which it considered to have been resolved, any further actions which it deemed necessary and additional clarifications which it required from the Board, and expressing the Board's appreciation for such guidance from the Council, which would facilitate the implementation of the Secretary-General's decision on the transfer of the Office in accordance with modalities considered satisfactory by the Council. Any further requests would have to be dealt with by the Board or the Secretary-General in the context of a further review of the subject by ACABQ. An informal meeting, to be held in early 1994, would provide delegations with an opportunity for an exchange of views with the Board.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

15. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the special session closed.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.